



News Release

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State disciplines health care providers

OLYMPIA -- The Washington State Department of Health has taken disciplinary actions or withdrawn charges against health care providers in our state.

The department's Health Systems Quality Assurance Division works with boards, commissions, and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 80 health care professions (e.g., medical doctors, nurses, counselors).

Information about health care providers is on the agency website. Click on "[Look up a healthcare provider license](#)" in the "How Do I?" section of the [Department of Health website](#) (doh.wa.gov). The site includes information about a health care provider's license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are encouraged to call and report their complaint.

Adams County

In July 2014 the Nursing Assistant Program denied a certified nursing assistant credential to **Sarah Elizabeth McKernan** (NC60277771). She was convicted of driving while intoxicated twice in 2011. McKernan didn't comply with an order to undergo a substance use evaluation.

Clallam County

In August 2014 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program conditionally granted a chemical dependency professional trainee credential to **Jennifer Lynn Brooks** (CO60450263) and ordered her to undergo evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. Brooks will remain on probation for at least three years if she isn't required to enroll in the program. She was convicted of driving while intoxicated twice in 2010.

Clark County

In August 2014 the Nursing Commission charged licensed practical nurse **Gayle R. Bethke** (LP00016821) with unprofessional conduct. In 2014 Bethke was convicted of second-degree attempted murder — domestic violence.

In August 2014 the Psychology Board entered an agreement with psychologist **Christopher K. Johnson** (PY00000813) that fines him \$2,000, requires him to complete continuing education in

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professional ethics, and orders him to take and pass a jurisprudence exam. Johnson didn't complete an evaluation of a patient, provide the patient's records to other health care professionals as requested, or respond to inquiries from the patient's mother.

In August 2014 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program ended conditions on the credential of chemical dependency professional **Kristal L. Ryan**, also known as Kristal L. Rosebrook (CP00003106).

In August 2014 the Home Care Aide Program conditionally granted a home care aide credential to **Nicole Maureen Mallars** (HM60433762) and ordered her to undergo evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. In 2009 Mallars was convicted of unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, and minor in possession of alcohol; in 2010 she was convicted of second-degree driving while license suspended or revoked; in 2011 she was convicted of second-degree trafficking in stolen property, and in 2014 she was convicted of first-degree escape.

Cowlitz County

In August 2014 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program ended conditions on the credential of chemical dependency professional trainee **William Jon Larson** (CO60269718).

Grays Harbor County

In August 2014 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program granted a chemical dependency professional trainee credential to **Kenneth Allen Boice** (CO60451243) and placed him on probation. Boice must complete continuing education in professional law and ethics, and undergo evaluation for a substance abuse monitoring program. In 2014 Boice pleaded guilty to third-degree theft, and false swearing.

King County

In August 2014 the Psychology Board entered an agreement with psychologist **Brenda Lynn Stoelb** (PY00003748) that requires her to participate in a substance abuse monitoring program. Stoelb drank alcohol before interviewing a patient and was under the influence during the interview which was evident to the patient and to staff members at the facility where she worked. Stoelb told a Department of Health investigator she'd used alcohol at work other times.

In August 2014 the Medical Commission entered an agreement with physician **R. Graham Reedy** (MD00014991) that permanently restricts him to telemedicine. Reedy may not issue prescriptions, have physical contact with patients or with others in the course of teaching, and may not instruct others how to perform a heart and lung examination. He must pay a \$5,000 fine. Reedy violated a previous agreement regarding his conduct with female patients during exams by touching women in a way that made them uncomfortable without explaining a clinical reason.

Kitsap County

In August 2014 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse **Trina Peterson**, also known as Tula Peterson (RN00175604) with being unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety. Charges say Peterson has been diagnosed with mental health disorders and substance abuse.

Pierce County

In August 2014 the Nursing Commission charged registered nurse and advanced registered nurse practitioner **Karin Lindgren** (RN00168324, AP60083868) with unprofessional conduct. Lindgren allegedly didn't comply with a substance abuse monitoring contract, and admitted to diluting her urine for drug screening in an effort to cover up her substance abuse.

In August 2014 the Nursing Assistant Program ended probation for certified nursing assistant **Vorite S. Tuafafie**, also known as Vorite S. Vaipou (NC10072225).

Snohomish County

In August 2014 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program charged chemical dependency professional **Elizabeth Lane Hulali Withey** (CP60169717) with unprofessional conduct. Withey allegedly had a sexual relationship with a former patient.

In August 2014 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program ended conditions on the credential of chemical dependency professional trainee and chemical dependency professional **Robert Wesley Powell** (CO60283753, CP60428248).

In July 2014 the Pharmacy Commission denied a pharmacy assistant credential to **Devin Clayton Larkin** (VB60331399). In 2007 Larkin was convicted of minor in possession and/or consumption and two counts of disorderly conduct. In 2012 he was convicted of driving while intoxicated and third-degree driving while license suspended.

In August 2014 the Medical Commission entered an agreement with physician **Samuel Ross Fox** (MD00005293) under which his practice will be monitored. The agreement limits Fox's ability to issue prescriptions, orders him to keep adequate records, and requires him to comply with policies and procedures when treating immediate family members. He must pay a \$2,500 fine. Fox prescribed a weight loss drug to 17 patients in doses exceeding recommended levels, and didn't properly monitor patients or keep adequate records. He also prescribed controlled substances for his wife.

Spokane County

In August 2014 the Chemical Dependency Professional Program reinstated the credential of chemical dependency professional trainee **Larry Gene Howard** (CO60194291). He must continue to participate in a substance abuse monitoring program. Howard's credential was suspended in 2012 when he violated terms of a previous agreement.

Whatcom County

In August 2014 the Counselor Program entered an agreement with mental health counselor **Drew Weidenbacher** (LH60061728) that places his credential on probation for at least three years. Weidenbacher must complete a professional ethics program and undergo therapy. He must pay a \$1,500 fine and can't practice alone while on probation. Weidenbacher formed a personal relationship with a client who was ending a marriage during which she'd been a victim of abuse and domestic violence. Weidenbacher touched and kissed her, suggested they begin a romantic relationship, repeatedly contacted her for non-therapeutic reasons, and didn't keep adequate records.

Yakima County

In August 2014 the Nursing Commission charged licensed practical nurse **Lane M. Willis** (LP00024447) with unprofessional conduct. Willis allegedly didn't comply with a 2013 agreement that placed her credential on probation.

In August 2014 the Medical Commission entered an agreement with physician **Dave S. Atteberry** (MD60125296) that requires stringent review and monitoring of his practice for 42 months and he must pay a \$5,000 fine. Atteberry performed surgery on the wrong level of a patient's spine. His notes and records misstated the level on the spine at which the surgery was performed. The patient continued to have severe pain until another surgeon did corrective surgery.

Out of State

Oregon: In August 2014 the Medical Commission entered an agreement with physician **Christopher M. Barone** (MD60251013) that places his credential on probation, requires him to comply with conditions on his Oregon license, and he must pay a \$1,000 fine. Barone was placed on probation in Oregon after providing substandard treatment to two patients, one of whom died. He also provided false answers about his background.

Pennsylvania: In August 2014 the Medical Commission charged physician **Robert R. Harrie** (MD60284253) with unprofessional conduct. Harrie reported to the commission that he's subject to an Oregon stipulated order that includes a reprimand, fine, completion of course work, and continued health care treatment.

Note to Editors: Health care providers charged with unprofessional conduct have 20 days to respond to the Department of Health in writing. The case then enters the settlement process. If no disciplinary agreement can be reached, the case will go to a hearing.

The [Department of Health website](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov) is your source for *a healthy dose of information*. Also, [find us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#).